

CITY OF REDMOND ARTS COMMISSION

MINUTES

April 13, 2006

Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center

“Voice the views of the community to Mayor and City Council in reference to all cultural endeavors”

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson Roy Leban, Vice Chair Tom Flynn, Latha Sambamurti, Lisa Shine, Kamal Siegel, Kay Tarapolsi

ABSENT AND EXCUSED:

STAFF PRESENT: Melna Skillingstead, Arts Administrator; Sandra Bettencourt, Recreation Program Manager; Dorie Lysaght, Recording Secretary

GUESTS PRESENT: Jill Krusinski, Eva Moon

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AGENDA

Note: Bold/italic text denotes Staff and Commissioner follow-up resulting from this meeting.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Roy Leban called to order the regular meeting of the Redmond Arts Commission (RAC) at 7:05 p.m. at the Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center (ORSCC).

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Redmond Arts Commission (RAC) minutes of March 9, 2006 were approved with the following amendments:

- Page 7, VII. C. first sentence: Change to read “...to a total of 18 months...”

Motion for approval of the RAC minutes of March 9, 2006 as amended by:
Commissioner Kay Tarapolsi

Second by: Commissioner Tom Flynn

Motion carried: 6-0 unanimous

III. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

V. General RAC Business:

- H. WRPA Awards – Skillingstead
- I. Business License – Tarapolsi
- J. Term Limits – Tarapolsi

Motion for approval of the April 13, 2006 agenda as amended by: Commissioner Kay Tarapolsi

Second by: Commissioner Tom Flynn

Motion carried: 6-0 unanimous

IV. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE

RAC candidates Eva Moon and Jill Krusinski introduced themselves.

V. GENERAL RAC BUSINESS

A. Chair/Vice Chair Report

Leban observed that the RAC meetings had not been as much fun in past months and proposed that the group take a five minute intermission break in the middle of the meetings to have one commissioner or staff member share their own art or what they like about art. The commissioners agreed that it was a good idea and Siegel volunteered to share his art by performing at the next meeting. Tarapolsi suggested a potluck dinner before televised meetings as another way to share interests.

B. Annual Report Approval

The 2005 Annual Report final draft was distributed to the commissioners. Flynn asked that commas be added to the attendance figures. Skillingstead reported that she asked about adding the Annual Report to FOCUS Magazine as an insert but that it would be thousands of dollars and would need to be eight pages long. The FOCUS editor suggested editing the information to fill the ArtQuest pages in the fall issue.

Motion for approval of the 2005 Annual Report: Commissioner Tom Flynn

Second by: Commissioner Kamal Siegel

Motion carried: 6-0 unanimous

Leban will distribute the 2005 Annual Report to the City Council on May 2, 2006.

C. Strategic Plan Consultant Update

Sambamurti reported that Jim Reid of the Falconer Group had been selected as the strategic plan consultant. He will interview current and past commissioners

and will lead three strategic planning sessions with the current commissioners. Planned meeting dates and times are May 11 from 7-9:30pm, May 13 from 1-4pm and May 20 from 1-4pm with May 18 from 6:30-9:30pm as an alternate.

Skillingstead will book a venue.

D. Joint Meeting Update & May/June Meeting Schedule

Skillingstead asked for commissioners to attend the May 4th Park Board Joint Meeting on the upcoming bond issue. Tarapolsi volunteered to go.

Because of the strategic plan meeting, the May meeting will be shortened and held from 6-7pm. ***Skillingstead will check on having the June meeting televised instead.***

E. Derby Days Participation

Skillingstead passed a sign up sheet for commissioners to march in the Derby Days Parade on July 8th from 9:30am to noon. The RAC entry will include the Northwest Junior Pipe Band. ***She will send information on parking and the parade route to the volunteers.***

F. SCAN TV Update

Tarapolsi reported that she was interviewed by SCAN TV for the ten minute segment on the RAC.

G. RAC Vacancies Update

Skillingstead stated that six candidates were interviewed for the RAC vacancies and that the Mayor would be recommending three to the City Council for appointment. They will be interviewed on April 18th. Orientation will be shortly after their scheduled confirmation on May 2.

H. WRPA Awards

The Washington Recreation and Parks Association awarded the 2005 Arts in the Parks brochure a Spotlight Poster 2006 Award of Excellence. Skillingstead will be at their annual meeting in Vancouver on April 24 and may stay for the presentation and awards ceremony on the 26th. If she does not stay, another representative from the Redmond Parks and Recreation Department will accept the award. Sambamurti praised the brochure designer, Wayne Gillam, for his fine work.

I. Redmond Business License

Tarapolsi mentioned that the Visual Arts Committee had requested that somebody from the City's Business Licensing speak to RAC about the business license fee requirements. In 2005, \$2,400 was paid for business license fees for artists out of the arts budget. Skillingstead stated that staff is looking into hiring a contractor to handle performing arts events to eliminate the need for individual artists to pay

the fees. Leban mentioned that there were other exemptions for the fees and that the City should reconsider the current policy.

J. Term Limits

Tarapolsi requested that commissioners be allowed to begin their three-year term when sworn in rather than having to complete an existing term when somebody leaves. Skillingstead pointed out that the City has set up all commissions and boards in the same way. Leban asked if there was any leeway in the policy and suggested that a letter be sent to the Mayor. Sambamurti felt that a letter should be drafted by the whole commission for submission to the Mayor. Tarapolsi stated that the sudden end of Houghton's term left the strategic planning committee, the handbook committee and the Art In the Box project in the air. Leban said that Houghton felt hurt by the ending of her term and that when others have left they had time to complete projects and prepare others to handle them. Flynn stated that the issue was that there was an abrupt transition and that it was a valid reason to write a letter to the Mayor about knowing in advance when transitions are coming. *Leban will draft a letter for staff review and distribution to the commission and will bring a final draft to the May meeting for approval.*

VI. PERFORMING/LITERARY ARTS

A. Performing Arts Committee Report

None.

B. Site Specific Performances

Sambamurti reported that the Performing Arts Committee had held a meeting to review artists for the King County Performance Network Fall Site Specific performances. The RAC hosted two site specific performances in 2005, "Trailer Tales" in Anderson Park and "Neighborhoodlum" in two Redmond coffee houses. The first show the committee recommended was "The Tempest in the Lake" by Teresa Thuman. It would be a performance of Shakespeare's The Tempest in Lake Sammamish at Idylwood Park. Skillingstead mentioned that they were hoping to promote this as the third Shakespeare in the Park performance in Redmond in 2006 and they would publicize it during Arts in the Parks and in FOCUS Magazine. The committee also recommended "Human Jazz" by Christian Swenson and thought it would be ideal as a series of performances at the new City Hall, the Redmond Library lobby and the Redmond post office. Leban suggested that it would be appropriate for the Parking Garage art dedication, especially since there would be an audience there. The third recommendation was for "Big Band in Public Places" by Greg Williamson's Pony Boy All Star Band. Tarapolsi mentioned that they could perform at the Redmond Town Center on the upper circle. Shine asked if there would be any insurance concerns about the performance in Lake Sammamish at Idylwood and Skillingstead said that the staff would check into those issues.

Motion for approval of “The Tempest in the Lake”, “Human Jazz” and “Big Band in Public Places” for the 2006 Site Specific performances: Commissioner Lisa Shine

Second by: Commissioner Latha Sambamurti

Motion carried: 6-0 unanimous

C. Literary Arts Committee Report

On the Poet Laureate proposal, Flynn reported that the committee was recommending a maximum of three non-consecutive 2-year terms and two options on the appointment process, depending on how involved the City Council wants to be in the process. ***Shine will edit the proposal for distribution before the May meeting.***

Flynn distributed information on the “Touring Writer” proposal from Hugo House. They asked for \$2,000 to produce a one-time event in Redmond on Saturday, November 4, 2006. A visiting writer would teach a 4-hour class and give a reading in the evening. Both would be open to the public. The proposed charge for the writing class would be \$65 for Hugo House members and \$75 for non-members. The proposed charge for the reading would be \$10 at the door and \$8 in advance. Hugo House would return 25% of the proceeds to the City of Redmond. They would like an approval of the proposal by next month in order to get the information into FOCUS Magazine and the Recreation Guide.

Leban pointed out that Hugo House is asking RAC to pay for all of the upfront costs while Hugo House will keep 75% of the proceeds. In a normal grant, RAC pays up to 40% of the total budgeted costs but the Hugo House proposal asks for a much larger percentage, including in-kind rentals of City facilities and promotion in City publications. Tarapolsi suggested that Redmond residents be given the \$65 Hugo House rate for the writing class and that advance tickets be sold at the ORSCC. Flynn stated that the proposal offered a great opportunity for Redmond but that the budget needed clarification. ***He will speak to Laura Lee Bennett of the Hugo House and will bring back more information to the May meeting.***

VII. ARTS EDUCATION/GRANTS

A. Arts Ed Committee Report

Skillingstead stated that Arts Education Week begins April 16 and asked if the RAC would approve of her reading the prepared Arts Ed Washington proclamation to the City Council at their meeting on April 18th. Leban asked if any commissioners available to read the proclamation could get in touch with Skillingstead, otherwise she could do the reading. Leban also made an open call to the RAC for commissioners to join the Arts Ed committee.

B. Grant Committee Report

Tarapolsi distributed the final Arts Education grant report from Anne Briggs. Leban remarked that he was impressed by her attendance numbers and Tarapolsi suggested that Briggs should apply for another grant to continue her program.

VIII. VISUAL ARTS

A. Visual Arts Committee Report

None.

B. Curator Update/ORSCC Gallery Selection Panel Jurors

Skillingstead reported that an RFP was sent out for the ORSCC and potential City Hall galleries. There was no response. She will be setting up a meeting with EAFA to discuss the possibility of them curating the galleries, but they cannot commit without actual volunteers to work the exhibits. She suggested that the RAC may have to consider paying a curator. She is also meeting with Laura Metzger, manager of the Microsoft Art Collection, to discuss a loaned art program from the Microsoft Collection for display in City Hall.

Skillingstead asked for commissioners to participate in a selection panel for the ORSCC Gallery. Shine and Tarapolsi volunteered to help.

C. Flat Tire Report-commission waiver

Skillingstead stated that the Finance Department has said that if the money for Flat Tire is donated to the City, that the commission will be waived. Tarapolsi suggested collecting the purchase funds through the Historical Society for their non-profit status. Skillingstead proposed that the collection could be set up so that if there was not enough collected for Flat Tire, that the money could be spent on another piece of art for the City. She also mentioned that if Flat Tire is donated to the City, that it would have to be relocated to City property. If the Friends of Flat Tire wanted it to remain on Redmond Town Center property, they would have to raise the full amount and donate it to Redmond Town Center. Leban requested that the Friends of Flat Tire determine where the piece will be located before collecting funds so the donors will know where it will be. ***Skillingstead said that she would pass on the commissions input to Friends of Flat Tire.***

D. ROS Artist Availability Update

Skillingstead reported that most ROS artists had responded that they will leave their work through May 2007. Only Tom Torrens will remove his two pieces in September 2006 as previously planned. The curator hiring process will begin in mid-May. She asked the commissioners to pass on any names of potential curators for the next exhibit.

IX. GENERAL NEW BUSINESS

Tarapolsi announced that she and Shine would be attending the Cultural Congress.

X. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn by: Commissioner Sambamurti

Second by: Commissioner Tarapolsi

Motion carried: 6-0 unanimous

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Recording Secretary, Dorie Lysaght

**NEXT REDMOND ARTS COMMISSION MEETING:
May 11, 2006
Old Redmond School House Community Center
6:00 p.m.**

Redmond Arts Commission

Meeting: April 13, 2006

Audience Present

Please note: Information provided at this public meeting becomes part of the City's permanent record.

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE
Eva Moon		
Jill Krusinski		